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# THE GREAT REBELLION,

A DISCOURSE BY  
WM. M. DAILY, D. D., L L. D.

Delivered in the Court House in Madison, on Sunday,  
September 7th, 1862.

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( P U B L I S H E D   B Y   T H E   P E O P L E . )

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MADISON, Ind., Sept. 8, 1862.

W. M. DAILY, D. D.:

RESPECTED SIR:—The undersigned, believing the circulation of the discourse delivered by you yesterday, at the Court House, on the subject of the present “Great Rebellion,” would enhance the interest of our common country, would, after mature deliberation, most respectfully request a copy thereof for publication.

Very Respectfully,

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| R. H. LITSON,  | JOHN ROBERTS,  |
| JAMES C. THOM, | W. R. HALL,    |
| I. F. HIGBEE,  | M. D. LOTT,    |
| JAMES BACHMAN, | JOHN RITCHIE,  |
| J. C. CROSSLY, | WM. C. HILLIS, |
| WM. HOWARD,    | JAS DONNELLY.  |

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MADISON, Ind., Sept. 11, 1862.

CAPT. R. H. LITSON and others:

GENTLEMEN:—Yours of the 8th inst. is this moment received, requesting a copy of my discourse on the “Great Rebellion,” delivered in the Court House on last Sabbath, for publication. And in reply have only to say that so soon as I have a few hours of leisure the discourse shall be placed at your disposal, hoping it may subserve the interests of the great cause of this war for the Union.

Most Respectfully Yours, &c.,

WM. M. DAILY.

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## Dr. Daily on the Great Rebellion.

*"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful."*

Rev. XVII Chap, 14 verse.

My text states a remarkable case of an unprovoked rebellion against a rightful Sovereignty—"the Lamb." It then gives the result. The Sovereignty "overcomes," or subdues the rebellion, for which result two reasons are assigned; first the remarkable character of the Sovereignty, and second, the loyalty and efficiency of the soldiery. Let us briefly expand this outline:

I. *The Sovereignty is "the Lamb."* How significant is this title. It is an appellation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is called a Lamb because of his sacrificial character as the Great Redeemer of mankind—the great anti-type of the sacrificial lamb used under the old dispensation. Still further, a lamb is an emblem of *innocence* and *usefulness*, and these characteristics in Christ entitle Him to the appellation of "the Lamb"—as he is the great embodiment of *innocence* and *usefulness*. Even Pilate announced to a captious world, "*I find no fault in this man,*" and an Evangelist pronounces his eulogy when he says: *He went about doing good.*"

II. *The Rebellion—"these shall make war with the Lamb."*

From the remarkable character of the Sovereignty—the Lamb—there can be no apology for the rebellion. It is wholly unprovoked, and springs from the basest passions, engendered in hell, led on by devils and the Southern Confederacy. In a word, all opposition to Christ and his Kingdom, is war against the Lamb. But we cannot enlarge.

III. *The result is stated, and reasons assigned. The Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings.*

The Lamb *overcomes* or *subjugates* the rebels. Though he is a Lamb in his sacrificial character, in his innocence and his usefulness, yet he is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah"—a *Lion in fight*.

The reasons assigned for his success against rebellion, are cogent.

I. *His matchless Sovereignty.* He is King of kings—a *Sovereign over sovereigns*, a *Lord over lords*, a Supreme Sovereignty—complete, unparalleled.

2. *The character of His Soldiery.* "They that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful." They are a citizen soldiery; loyal, active, brave, efficient; and hence the victory is complete. This matchless Sovereignty is called "faithful and true, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." "He hath on his vesture, and on his thigh a name written King of kings and Lord of lords," and thus caparisoned "he rides forth to battle, while the armies which are in Heaven follow him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." And an Angel in the sun announces the complete triumph of the Lamb and his army, and his conquering soldiery return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joys upon their heads, and the subjugated world kneels before Judah's conquering Lion.

This disposes of the theology of the text, and we now proceed to the main object of the discourse:

I. *The Sovereignty.* The Federal Government of these United States is a complete Sovereignty. "*We, the People,*" made the Constitution for the express purpose of making a "*perfect Union.*" The Articles of Confederation did not make the Union perfect, and left the sovereignty of the Federal Government incomplete. But the Constitution makes the Sovereignty complete—*supreme*—and the Union under it perfect. And hence we have this expressive language in the Constitution: "This Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding." This claims for the Federal Government *supreme sovereignty* over the whole country, and makes the State Sovereignties subordinate. And hence a State, as such, by *rebellion* against the Constitution or Laws of the Federal Government, becomes guilty of *Treason*, as much so as an individual.—And now, in such case the Constitution binds the Federal Government, by *Coercion*—by the power of her arms—to punish by suitable penalties, and bring back such rebellious State to her allegiance to the General Government. In other words, the power is vested in the Federal Government to maintain its authority, and to insure its perpetuity. *Coercion*, then, in case of rebellion, is a *necessity*, laid upon the supreme sovereignty by "the Constitution as it is" to secure to herself and her people "the Union as it was." To be opposed, then, "to the whole coercive policy of the Government" is to be opposed to "the Constitution as it is," and to oppose the Government, for fulfilling its sworn obligations to itself and to the people. The Federal Sovereignty must maintain and enforce its authority over every foot of its soil, from the Northern Lakes to the Southern Gulf—from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific Shore.

But the character of the Sovereignty is shadowed forth in the text. The Lamb *made*, and *bought* the world of mankind with

his own sacrificial blood, and thus established his kingdom. So this Government of the people established itself a Christian Sovereignty, for the benefit of mankind. This was done by great sacrifice and toil—by the arms, the wisdom and piety of our fathers. Its character is *Christian*. This Government was born in the arms of a christian mother, baptized at a christian font, and rocked in the cradle of christian institutions, until it has grown to a christian manhood. The first vocal strains ever heard upon the shores of this Continent were the *Tu Deum* sung by our Pilgrim Fathers, and chanted by the cavaliers of Virginia and Maryland. And hence the Government is *innocent* of any infringement of any of the unalienable rights of the people, or of the States, but most sacredly protects all in “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Again, it is a Government of benefits to the people. Its beneficent character is without a parallel. We hazzard nothing in saying that the United States Government confers more benefits upon its citizens than any other Government on the face of the Globe; and withal is the great leader in Civilization, in Commerce, in Benevolence and in Christianity.

I have no eulogy to pronounce upon the grandeur and the glory of the “Stars and Stripes,” only as they are emblematic of our Federal Sovereignty, its beneficent and God-like character, the noblest and the best, the mildest and yet the most powerful Government over which the sun in Heaven ever rolled his golden chariot. Any man who is the enemy of this Government is the foe of God and man—he is the enemy of civilization, and of the evangelization and the regeneration of the world. This is no new theory with me, but is the long cherished estimate in which I have held my Government. I never have had any sympathy for recklessness of the *integrity* and *perpetuity* of the Union. I never have been willing to “let the Union slide,” or to see one stripe erased or a single star obscured. God has wedded this Government to the best fortunes of humanity throughout all time and in all lands. The elevation and full developement of humanity is its great mission. Civilization looks to it as its great leader, and Christianity as its great Missionary, while down trodden humanity every where looks to it for its elevation. It is the foster mother of the Arts and Sciences, of intelligence and improvement, of school-houses and churches, of education and religion—it spreads out its arms like seas embracing humanity to lift it from thraldom, and bring it into an alliance with its God. “If I forget thee, O! my Country, let my right hand forget its cunning, and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.” To abuse this Government is to abuse the Lamb, and whoever abuses, decries, or inveighs against it, be it Jeff Davis, or Wendell Phillips, Loyd Garrison, or John C. Breckenridge, is a *rile rebel*, and the unmitigated foe of God and man, and all such deserve the execrations of the civilized world.

This brings us to notice,

## II. *The Rebellion.*

Our positions in relation to the Sovereignty, and its beneficent character, precludes the possibility of any justifiable cause for this great rebellion on the part of the so called Confederate States. The great ends of Government are announced by the Sovereignty, to secure to all their "*inalienable rights.*" "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." It is not alledged that any of these have been infringed. But so horribly wicked and base is the rebellion, that war is waged to interfere with, if not to entirely destroy, these very rights declared to be *inalienable*. The end aimed at is the destruction of the Government, by trampling upon all the rights of humanity, in search of what they call *their rights*. O, what madness! The world looks on in wonder at the blind infatuation that drives them headlong to ruin, as though they were willing to perish in the wreck of this glorious Government.

This Great Rebellion originates in opposition to the most benevolent of Governments and to the best interests of humanity. And yet some are wont to justify it by comparing it with the Revolution of 1776. How ridiculous! Our fathers *rebelled* against the tyranny and oppression of the old world, and inaugurated a Revolution founded upon christian principle, and the philosophy of free government. They pledged to each other "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor," to establish a Government that would secure to them and their posterity the full enjoyment of all their inalienable rights, and to establish forever a Government of civil and religious liberty on the broadest scale. Whereas, these Rebels enter no complaint against our form of government, the wisest and the best on the face of the globe. None of their "*inalienable rights*" have been interfered with, but sacredly protected under the Constitution and the Laws. With this view we cannot hesitate to pronounce our Revolutionary Fathers, PATRIOT HEROES, while these rebels of the Confederate States, are *Thieves* and *Robbers*, and the foes of God and man, richly deserving at the hands of the civilized world, the fate of malefactors.

Yet there are some, and some who are the professed ministers of the Lord Jesus, who tell us there must be no *coercion* on the part of the Government. They say that the God of Heaven does not coerce *rebellious man*, but rather comes to him with *pleadings* and *entreaties* to be reconciled. If we were disposed to admit this, that God does not coerce rebel man, we might retort by saying that he did *coerce* Devils. They were *coerced*, *subjugated*, imprisoned in Hell, under chains of darkness unto the judgement of the great day; and all this for rebelling against the Government of Heaven. But sooner or later, Man himself is to be *coerced*, after all other means of reconciliation have failed. It is written in the Book, "as I live saith the Lord God, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess," &c. And so the Government now says to these Rebels in arms, "as I live

says the Federal Government, every rebel knee shall bow, and every rebellious tongue shall confess my authority, by submission to my Constitution and Laws, or else be banished into outer darkness, where there shall be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth." So much for the coercive policy of the Government. The Constitution and Laws must be enforced every where.

This Rebellion has been inaugurated on the largest possible scale—such as the world never saw before. It is truly formidable; and it is all folly, it is weakness to underrate it, as some are doing. It will require the best Statesmanship, the best Generalship, and the bravest soldiery, to save the Government and restore the Union. Those counsellors have proved safest, who have taken the clearest and most enlarged view of its wondrous dimensions, and its fearful bitterness. One illustrious patriot Statesman, now no more, seemed to grasp it at its first outbreak. The whole Nation now admits the wisdom of the statement of Judge Douglas, just before his death, who said in relation to the first call for troops, that "instead of *seventy-five thousand*, it should be *a million*, that the more stupendous and overwhelming the preparation, the shorter the war." Here was wisdom in counsel from one of the greatest Statesmen America ever produced.—

The Nation mourns his loss in this crisis, and none more so than the present Chief Magistrate of the nation, Abraham Lincoln. He felt that he needed the wisdom of his patriot counsel, and the power of his giant mind, to help bear the Government through this fearful struggle.

But the encouraging feature of the subject remains.

III. *The predicted triumph of the Government. "The Lamb shall overcome them, for he is King of kings, and Lord of lords."*

Here the general fact is announced. The Government shall overcome the Rebellion. This is an encouragement to the heart of the true patriot. But this prediction is based upon two of the most cogent reasons:

1. *The unparalleled character of the Sovereignty.* "He is King of kings, and Lord of lords." This Government in its Federal capacity, is a *Supreme Sovereignty* over *Sovereignties*. It is to all intents and purposes Sovereign over the State Sovereignties.—Its Laws and its Constitution are the Supreme Law of the land; all others are subordinate. And, then, she is acknowledged by Civilization as the great ruling Sovereignty of the Nations.—The prestige of her flag is without a parallel, on all seas and in all lands—her resources are boundless—her recuperative power has never been fully measured—her genius and her skill in the Arts and the Sciences, Benevolence and improvement in every thing that pertains to the wealth and power of a Nation, and the elevation of humanity, all, all combine to make her a *peerless, matchless Sovereignty*. She is emphatically "King of kings and Lord of lords" as a National Sovereignty, and for this reason she shall overcome the Rebellion.

*2. The character of her Soldiery. They that are with the Government are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

The Government has *called* them to her rescue in this great crisis. She has *chosen* them, as her *citizen soldiery*, for her defence, and finds them to be *faithful* to the Constitution and the Laws. In a word, they are *LOYAL* and *BRAVE*, and with patriotic devotion worthy of their illustrious Sires, “**DARE to DO or DIE.**”

Every citizen owes something to his Government, for its defence and its perpetuity, and unless he yields this willingly, he is unworthy of a Government. And in this great emergency, the United States Government expects every man to do his duty. No man is at liberty to fold his arms and idly look on at this struggle, and say “I had nothing to do in bringing on this war, and I will have nothing to do in closing the war.” O, shame on such affected *Neutrality*. Citizens of this great Government, there can be no *Neutrals* in this war. Here is a great philosophical, as well as religious truth, from the Great Teacher. “He that is not for us is against us, and he that gathereth not with us, scattereth abroad.” And by this rule every man will be tried. Every man must be a *friend, open, avowed, active and efficient, called, chosen and faithful*; or else he is *an enemy*, and must be so held by the Government and all its loyal citizens. And a *secret foe* is worse than *an open enemy*. For God’s sake do take up arms *on* one side or the other. Be *for us*, or, *against us*. The great and immortal Judge Douglas, never uttered a greater truth than the one to be found in his last great speech, when he says: “In this great struggle there can be but two parties—*Friends and Enemies*—for the Government, or against it.” And, let me add, the friends must be *out-spoken* and active, and not *quiet neutral drones*. We have enough of this latter class over the river, who have all the while been giving “aid and comfort to the enemy,” under the guise of “Kentucky Neutrality.” I have said to some of these that Indiana has fought over Kentucky once, scattering the rebel hordes, and bathing it in some of her best blood, but she will not fight over it the second time, without baptizing it in Neutral blood, from the Ohio, to the Southern border. No Neutral disloyalty is to be left behind the conquering Union forces, the second time. This may seem to be unscriptural and anti-christian, but I tell you nay. What says the Great God in the Good Book in regard to *Neutrality*? Hear him: “Curse ye Meroz, curse ye Meroz, curse ye her bitterly.” What for, O, thou God of wisdom and justice, what has “Meroz” done to deserve this bitter curse? God answered, “Because she came not up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” She was to be thus bitterly cursed for her *Neutrality*, in the case of a great war. This case is precisely parallel with that of our *Neutrals* in this war against rebellion; and we have the sanction of the bible for the most bitter denunciation and curses upon all such.

There is another case in point: In the wars of Israel, God had doomed Jericho to absolute ruin—that is, by his own fiat he had passed a general *Confiscation Bill*, and demanded of his army its strictest execution. But *Achan*, a “*Rebel sympathizer*,” refused to carry it out, and by stealth preserved a “golden wedge,” and a “goodly Babylonian garment.” This unfaithfulness, on his part, brought defeat upon the armies of Israel.—But Joshua, the great leader of the host, searched out the traitor, had him duly executed, and the “wedge of gold,” and the “goodly Babylonian garment,” *Confiscated*—and when the Traitor was stoned, and the property of the Rebels confiscated, as God had ordered it, then victory perched upon the standard of Israel. So we should, in a legitimate way—not by the mob, but according to law, we should hunt up every “golden wedge,” every “goodly Babylonian garment”—every thing that is *contraband*—have all *confiscated*, and every traitorous Achan put out of the way, according to the Scriptural rule, and then our Flag will wave triumphantly over the conquering legions of the Union forces, and Rebellion will be buried in “the last ditch.” It is all folly to talk about “*the rights*” of Rebels. A man in rebellion against this Government, *has no rights of property*, or any thing else, and deserves the fate of Achan—he deserves to die.

Our strength in this great struggle is in our undivided, harmonious front. They that are *with* the Government, should be *unmistakably for* the Government, *called, chosen and faithful*, and such a force will be invulnerable, and insure a victorious triumph over all the rebel hordes. All who are not of this type must be held and treated as enemies. “*For us or against us*,” is our motto. And whenever this Federal Sovereignty wheels into line on these principles, then, woe betide the Rebellion! It shall be “*overcome, subjugated, subdued, crushed out* and if need be *extinguished from the earth*.”

The day of triumph will most assuredly come. Our conquering hosts although “with garments rolled in blood,” shall return to their homes, not singing,

“*Away down South in Dixie,*”

But rather,

“*Away up North from Dixie,*”

And they shall come with victorious banners flying, with loud long shouts of victory from vale and from mountain, echoing over all the land from the Southern Gulf to the Northern Lakes, from the white-crested wave of the Atlantic, to the peaceful shores of the Pacific—from the Dome of our Capitol in Washington, as a center, all over and around through the vast circumference of the land, proclaiming to this redeemed Nation, that once more we have “*the Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was.*”

Then will come the day of jubilee throughout all Civilization throughout all Christendom, on Earth and in Heaven.



